

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named  
Inventor : Mark F. Bares

Filed : Herewith

For : PIVOTING PANEL FOR MECHANICAL  
CONTROL DISENGAGEMENT

Docket No.: M297.12-0256

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Express Mail No. EL844351550US  
Date of Deposit: February 8, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action, it is respectfully  
requested that the following amendments be made.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

16.(New) An actuator panel for a control system on a powered machine having a frame having a pivoting control lever, said control lever having a portion extending outwardly from a pivot axis of the control lever, the control system and the control lever being mounted on the frame for controlling a ground drive for the frame, the actuator panel being pivotally mounted on said frame, said actuator panel being urged in a first direction extending outwardly from the frame, the actuator panel moving to engage the portion of the control lever to move the control lever to a selected position from a first position when the actuator panel pivots inwardly toward the frame.

17.(New) The actuator panel of claim 16, wherein said actuator panel is pivotally mounted on the frame adjacent a rear side of the powered machine, and tapers rearwardly and downwardly at an angle so that a lower portion extends outwardly from the frame, and wherein the movement of the lower portion of the pivoting panel forwardly moves the control lever to the selected position.

18.(New) The actuator panel of claim 17, wherein the first portion of the control lever operates controls to move the frame in reverse, and the retracted position of the control lever stops reverse movement of the frame.

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REMARKS

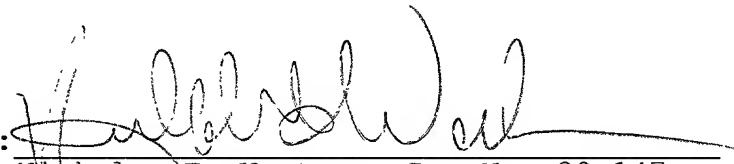
The Preliminary Amendment is to submit claims for consideration in the first Official Action that described the invention in different terms.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to the first Official Action and prior to calculating the fees for the application.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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NEW:lah

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